

the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our bill, H.R. 6863, to name the Memphis VA hospital in honor of a true World War II hero and a hero in American life, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Weathers, Jr.

I didn't know of Lieutenant Colonel Weathers until his passing, and I read about his passing in the Memphis newspaper, the Commercial Appeal, and I went and attended his funeral at St. Theresa Little Flower Church, where he was a member. I think he integrated the church. The church is a large church and it was packed.

In spite of the fact that he had moved to retire to Arizona, possibly in Tucson, maybe 15 or 20 years earlier, the people knew Lieutenant Colonel Weathers, they knew his work, they knew his good deeds in the community, and they knew his actions. I was honored to be at that funeral, and I thought this man is something else.

It has been well documented what he did with his life and with the Tuskegee Airmen and the Red Tails and the several airplanes he shot down.

There is a movie coming out now that is getting a lot of advertisement, and all Members of Congress have been invited to see this week, called "Devotion," about an African-American pilot who was a star in the Korean war.

It was Lieutenant Colonel Weathers and the Tuskegee Airmen who were the predecessors of that gentleman's opportunity to defend his country and to show his skills. That is another reason why his name at the veterans hospital will be so important, to inspire people to go into a military career and pursue aviation, which Lieutenant Colonel Weathers encouraged people to do, particularly African-American young men.

I was also honored to attend his funeral. It was a funeral with a flyover, military caisson, and "Taps," as befitting a gentleman who had served his country as he did.

His family is very strong in Memphis in support of their father's legacy. I met them in St. Theresa Little Flower Church at his funeral in 2011.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers paved the way for many to become pilots, and his legacy endures in the countless lives that he touched.

I thank our Tennessee delegation who unanimously supported this legislation and this naming of the new Memphis VA Medical Center. It was also endorsed by The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I thank Chairman TAKANO, Ranking Member BOST, and the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for advancing the bill through committee and bringing it to the floor today. I

thank Mr. HOYER for his help with that, too.

We have done a good thing today to honor a true American hero. I think fondly of him. I had commissioned a plaque to be created and installed at the Memphis airport recognizing his service in the Federal Aviation Administration and integrating that facility. I am honored I will be a part of keeping his memory alive forever.

□ 1445

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be associated with the passage of this bill to honor Lieutenant Colonel Weathers. I have the distinction of representing the University of California, Riverside, where resides the Tuskegee Airmen Archives.

I am reminded by the Speaker's presence on the dais and the presence of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) that you are both veterans and that serving our veterans and remembering our veterans is not about two colors. It is not about red or blue, but it is about red, white, and blue, and that all colors of America have fought for the three colors, and they bled one color.

It is important for us to remember the poignancy of our segregated fighting units of World War II, the last war in which we had segregated fighting units, and mark the progress that this country has made and that we must continue to make, so it is fitting that I call on all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 6863.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6863.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAJOR GENERAL OLIVER W. DILLARD VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7903) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7903

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Oliver W. Dillard was born on September 28, 1926, in Margaret, Alabama.

(2) In 1945, following basic training he was drafted and was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group in Germany as part of the World War II army of occupation. He was selected to serve as company clerk and began to work his way through the ranks, attaining Technical Sergeant.

(3) Dillard successfully completed the Officer Candidate School (OCS) selection process and was approved for attendance at the Infantry OCS at Fort Benning in January 1947. He received a commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry after graduating from Infantry OCS in July 1947 and was the honor graduate of his Infantry officers basic course.

(4) He served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam.

(5) During his service, Dillard graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in 1958, where he was one of only three Black officers in his class. After CGSC, he completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Omaha leveraging his earlier studies at Tuskegee Institute.

(6) In 1965, Mr. Dillard graduated from the National War College, becoming the first Black officer to do so. He graduated at the top of his class.

(7) MG Dillard's military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster and "V" Device, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star (two awards), the Army Staff Identification Badge, and the Vietnam Distinguished Service Order (1st and 2d Class). Dillard also received two civilian awards from the Republic of Vietnam, the Vietnam Rural Revolutionary Development Medal and the Vietnam Ethnic Development Service Medal (1st Class).

(8) Dillard was inducted into the United States Army's Military Intelligence Hall of Fame in 2012, the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in 2012, and the Alabama Military Hall of Honor in 2013.

(9) He died in Canton, Michigan, in 2015, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC LOCATED IN CANTON, MICHIGAN.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 7903, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Major General Oliver William Dillard, Sr., a decorated soldier, an exemplary Army intelligence officer, and a pioneer for other Black and minority military leaders.

I thank my colleague, Representative HALEY STEVENS, for introducing this bill, H.R. 7903, as amended, which will designate the VA outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

Originally from Margaret, Alabama, deep in the Jim Crow South, Major General Dillard enrolled at the Tuskegee Institute at age 15 shortly after the famed Tuskegee Airmen program was established. He was a proud ROTC cadet and student instructor at Tuskegee and an exceptional student as well.

Major General Dillard postponed his academic studies, however, after being drafted into the U.S. military in 1945. He completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and was sent to Bavaria, Germany, where he served as an administrative specialist in the Army's 349th Field Artillery Group during World War II.

Following the war, Major General Dillard chose to remain in the Army. He completed Officer Candidate School and was assigned to the all-Black 356th Infantry Regiment at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

He served admirably throughout five campaigns in the Korean war and graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in 1958 as one of only three Black officers in his class.

Major General Dillard later assisted a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Monrovia, Liberia, before returning to the United States and working as a senior intelligence officer in Washington, D.C.

In 1964, he became the first Black officer to attend the Army's prestigious National War College and was selected to command a battalion of the 5th Combat Support Training Brigade at Fort Dix.

He served honorably with the U.S. Military Assistance Command during the Vietnam war, and upon his return he was promoted to brigadier general, making him just the fifth Black flag officer in U.S. Army history.

Major General Dillard went on to serve posts at Fort McPherson, Georgia; Fort Hood, Texas; and Heidelberg, Germany, before retiring from the Army after a 34-year career in 1980.

He remained committed to advancement opportunities for Black and minority officers in his retirement and was a steadfast advocate for equality within all branches of the Armed Forces, supporting the overturning of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy for LGBTQ servicemembers before it was officially repealed in 2011.

For his dutiful service to this Nation, Major General Dillard received nine

military awards and two civilian medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with a star.

Veterans who receive care at the VA clinic in Canton, Michigan, should feel honored to enter a facility bearing Major General Dillard's name. I know we, as Members of Congress, are profoundly honored and grateful for his service to our country as well.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 7903, as amended, from The American Legion, VFW, and DAV, as well as the Michigan delegation.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, May 27, 2022.

HON. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

HON. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write in support of legislation to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic".

Oliver W. Dillard was born on September 28, 1926, in Margaret, Alabama, and began a distinguished career of service in 1945 when he was first drafted and assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group following basic training. He was selected to serve as company clerk and began to work his way through the ranks.

In January 1947, Mr. Dillard was accepted to attend the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, where he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. He served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam. In 1965, Mr. Dillard graduated from the National War College, becoming the first Black officer to do so.

Throughout Major General Dillard's distinguished service career, he held various esteemed positions and received many military and civilian awards. He served as the first black General Officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Intelligence, served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the U.S. Army Forces Command, and Deputy Chief of Staff of Intelligence for the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe. Major General Dillard received nine military awards and two civilian medals during his years of service, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

Mr. Dillard retired in 1980 from military service—US Army as a Major General after 34 years of service and resided in Canton, Michigan, where he later passed.

It is in recognition of this barrier breaking service to his country that we express our support for renaming the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Canton, Michigan in his honor. We appreciate your time and consideration of this of this important matter. We look forward to working with you to recognize the life and service of Major General Dillard.

Sincerely,

HALEY M. STEVENS, BRENDA L. LAWRENCE, DANIEL T. KILDEE, ELISSA SLOTKIN, RASHIDA TLAIB, DEBBIE DINGELL, BILL HUIZENGA, PETER MELJER, TIM WALBERG, FRED UPTON, ANDY LEVIN, LISA C. MCCLAIN, JACK BERGMAN, JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Members of Congress.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, October 12, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member JERRY MORAN,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Ranking Member MIKE BOST,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write in support of H.R. 7903, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic."

Major General Dillard began his career 34 year career in 1945 when he was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group. In 1947, he attended the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning where he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant of infantry, and served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam. In 1965, Major General Dillard became the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College.

Major General Dillard served in many distinguished capacities in the military throughout his life, including as Deputy Chief of Staff to the U.S. Army Forces Command, and Deputy Chief of Staff of Intelligence for the U.S. Armed forces in Europe. Major General Dillard received nine military awards and two civilian medals during his 34 years of service, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

Major General Dillard retired from military service in 1980 and resided in Canton, Michigan, until his passing in 2015. In recognition of Mr. Dillard's exemplary service to his country, we express our strong support for renaming the Canton, Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in his honor and ask for the Committee's consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

DEBBIE STABENOW,
U.S. Senator.
GARY C. PETERS,
U.S. Senator.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Submitted By Department Legislative Committee

Subject Naming the Canton V.A. CBOC

RESOLUTION 22-17

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. lived in Canton, Michigan at the time of his passing; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. served in the United States Army and retired as a Major General after 34 years; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. served the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, the last J2 (senior Intelligence officer) for the U.S. Military Assistance Command—Vietnam, the first U.S. Army Forces Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and the first black Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence for the U.S. Army Europe; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. was the fifth black officer in the U.S. Army to attain the flag rank; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. was the first black graduate of the National War College in 1965; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. was a member of the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame and Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan, via DEC email vote on April 8, 2022, supports the efforts of Michigan Congressional Representative Haley Stevens to name the V.A. Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, Canton, Michigan, the Major General Oliver W. Dillard Sr. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Clinic".

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN,
Lansing, MI, May 4, 2022.

Representative HALEY STEVENS,
Washington, DC.

TO THE HON. REPRESENTATIVE HALEY STEVENS: The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan enthusiastically supports the renaming of the VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, Canton, Michigan to be the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard Sr. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Clinic".

Major General Oliver W. Dillard Senior's 34 years of exemplary service to our Nation cannot be understated, and the renaming of this facility is a small step towards recognizing his incredible service to our Nation. Through the renaming of this facility, our Nation can begin to express its gratitude for all he represented for his accomplishments during his service and in breaking down barriers for African American service members: his graduation as the first African American from the National War College in 1965; being selected as the first African American U.S. Army Forces Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and being recognized in the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame and Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame just to name a few.

We thank you for your endurance of bringing this task to our attention allowing us to recognize those who served our Nation honorably.

KEVIN A. CONKLIN,
State Commander,
Veterans of Foreign
Wars, Department of
Michigan.

DEREK BLUMKE,
State Adjutant &
Quartermaster,
Veterans of Foreign
Wars, Department of
Michigan.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN,
Fraser, Michigan, April 28, 2022.

The Office of Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan supports Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS' initiative to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic".

The DAV Department of Michigan believes naming the Canton Outpatient Clinic in honor of General Dillard is a fitting tribute to his dedication to duty and selfless sacrifices over a lifetime of service to our country. General Dillard is not only an inspiration to all of us who have served, but also to generations of future veterans that will answer our nations call.

Sincerely,

PAUL KAISER,
Adjutant,
DAV Department of Michigan.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and all Members of the Michigan delegation for their initiative on this bill.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7903, as amended, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

Major General Dillard began his 34-year career in 1945 when he was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group in Germany as part of the post-World War II army of occupation.

In 1947, he attended the infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, where he received a commission as a second lieutenant. He then went on to serve in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam.

In 1965, Major General Dillard became the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College.

Major General Dillard served in many distinguished capacities until his retirement in 1980. Not only did he break down numerous barriers over his career, but he held various esteemed positions, earned military medals, to include the Silver and Bronze Stars, and multiple civilian awards.

By naming the VA clinic in Canton after this officer who served with such distinction and sacrifice, the many veterans who will see his name will no doubt be inspired by his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), who serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the very distinguished chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who understands so many of these issues.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 7903, legislation to designate the VA clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

I thank my colleague, HALEY STEVENS, for her leadership and for listening to all the veterans and getting this piece of legislation to the floor today. She has listened to them. We will shortly share this facility. It will be in my district, but the veterans will live in both of our districts.

The recent opening of a new community-based outpatient clinic in Canton reaffirms our commitment to Michigan veterans so that they can access the care and support that they need closer to home. It will serve many veterans in southeast Michigan.

This legislation would rename the Canton CBOC in honor of Major Gen-

eral Oliver W. Dillard, a veteran and a trailblazer who served the Nation for 34 years.

After being drafted to Germany to serve in World War II, Major General Dillard went on to be the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College. Throughout his esteemed career, he earned nine military awards and two civilian medals.

Major General Dillard retired from military service in 1980 and resided in Canton, Michigan, until he passed. The veterans themselves from this community and beyond wanted this center to be named after him.

I am so proud to have worked on this important bipartisan legislation with my colleague, Representative STEVENS. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

My colleague and I were there when it had the soft opening. If you could have seen his family and his colleagues, the veterans he served with, with tears in their eyes, you would know why this has meaning.

I thank the Michigan delegation for supporting this effort, and I thank leadership for advancing this to the floor.

Naming the Canton clinic after Major General Dillard means his story and life will continue to inspire generations to come.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS), another very good friend, who is the author of this legislation. She serves on the Education and Labor Committee, on which I also serve, and as the chairwoman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand before you today to pay tribute to the heroes who have gone before us and the heroes who walk among us, our veterans. It is also an honor to be here with my legislation under the great leadership of the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who leads us so well here in the Congress.

I rise in support of my bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

Major General Dillard was a trailblazer who exemplified what it means to be an exceptional serviceman. He began his 34-year military career in 1945 when he was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group in Germany as part of the World War II army of occupation.

Following his time in Europe, he attended the infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, where he received a commission as second lieutenant of infantry. In following years, he continued to climb the ladder.

In 1958, Major General Dillard graduated from the Army Command and

General Staff College, where he was one of only three Black officers in his class.

In 1965, Major General Dillard made history by becoming the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College. He later served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam, a most remarkable career.

This includes as the first Black general officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Intelligence, as deputy chief of staff to the U.S. Army Forces Command, and as deputy chief of staff of intelligence for the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe.

During his extraordinary 34 years of service, Major General Dillard received nine military awards and two civilian medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with star.

He retired from military service in 1980 and later passed away in 2015 in Canton, Michigan, where this VA outpatient clinic will reside and where his son, Oliver, still resides.

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of touring this facility alongside the Dillard family, with my incredible colleague and champion for this legislation, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, who will be representing Canton in this upcoming Congress.

The naming of the Canton VA clinic is just a small token of our appreciation and recognition to Major General Dillard for his exemplary service, leadership, and sacrifice to our Nation.

I know that this VA clinic will serve as a proud commemoration of the man who dedicated his life to serving others and as an inspiration to those who will continue to hear his name.

I thank both the Dillard family—in specific, his son, Oliver—and Congresswoman DINGELL for their work and input on this legislation.

I also thank Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak for her leadership in getting the VA outpatient clinic to its current place.

I also thank our entire Michigan delegation, as well as the Michigan American Legion, the Michigan Disabled American Veterans, and the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars, for their support on this bill.

I thank my colleagues for their consideration of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I am going to go off script for a moment here and just say that the more I hear about these veterans that we are honoring here today, they are just incredible. I want to know more about Major General Dillard and his Bronze Star, Silver Star, and Purple Heart.

As we are on the heels of Veterans Day this last weekend, the remarkable bravery that General Dillard must

have shown to receive those awards is staggering, and I would like to come up and see the clinic in Michigan at some point just to honor the man and meet his family.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I share the sentiment of my colleague from Texas. You cannot be indifferent to the stories as we read the accounts of these great American heroes. I am personally affected by the part of Major General Dillard's history in terms of his opposition to Don't Ask, Don't Tell way before it was overturned. The fact that he himself knew the sting of discrimination and could not brook that this discrimination would apply to any other group of Americans is especially poignant to me.

I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for bringing Major General Dillard to our attention to memorialize him in the way that she has done.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7903, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7903, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of H.R. 7903 was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the 'Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SY KAPLAN VETERANS CENTER

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7925) to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan Veterans Center", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7925

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Seymour "Sy" Kaplan was born on February 28, 1924.

(2) Sergeant Kaplan served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945 as a combat engineer.

(3) Sergeant Kaplan served in the 2d, 4th, and 14th Armored Divisions, seeing service in North Africa, Italy, and France.

(4) Sergeant Kaplan rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant and earned 3 Battle Stars and 2 Purple Hearts.

(5) Sergeant Kaplan served under General George Patton at the Battle of the Bulge and received 2 Purple Hearts for his service.

(6) In April 1945, Sergeant Kaplan was grievously wounded in an enemy mortar attack in Czechoslovakia and returned to the United States a wounded warrior.

(7) Sergeant Kaplan served as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 78 (Coachella Valley) for many years.

(8) Sergeant Kaplan was instrumental in the opening of the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Palm Desert.

(9) Sergeant Kaplan personally provided countless local veterans with advice and assistance in obtaining their earned Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

(10) Sergeant Kaplan received the Senior Inspiration Award from Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson in 2001.

(11) Wilson also appointed Sergeant Kaplan the first chair of the Desert Palms Community Council.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC LOCATED IN PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 7925, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Technical Sergeant Seymour "Sy" Kaplan, a wounded warrior, a World War II veteran, and a decades-long advocate for other veterans living in the Coachella Valley of southern California.

I thank my colleague, a fellow Californian and member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Dr. RAUL RUIZ, for his work on this bill, which will designate a brand-new VA outpatient clinic in Palm Desert, California, the Sy Kaplan VA Clinic.

The state-of-the-art Palm Desert clinic provides primary care, behavioral health services, and preventative medicine to thousands of veterans in the Inland Empire as part of VA's Loma Linda Healthcare System.

Sergeant Kaplan enlisted in the military in 1942 and served overseas as a combat engineer in northern Africa, Italy, and France. He fought under